

## *KEY DATES*

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# KEY DATES OF EVENTS AT THE HANFORD SITE 1943-1990

**Owner/Prime Contractor**

Date	Event
Feb 25, 1941	Glenn Seaborg at the University of California Berkeley discovers plutonium-239 more likely to fission than uranium-235
<b>U.S. Corps of Engineers Manhattan Engineer District</b>	
Aug 1942	The U.S. Corps of Engineers is assigned to be in charge of the Manhattan Project
Nov 12, 1942	U.S. Government decides to build plutonium production reactors and separation facilities at the Hanford Site
Dec 2, 1942	Enrico Fermi achieves first nuclear reaction in the Chicago Pile-1 Reactor at the University of Chicago's Staff Field
<b>U.S. Corps of Engineers Manhattan Engineer District</b>	
E.I. Du Pont de Nemours and Company	
Dec 21, 1942	Du Pont receives contract to construct and manage the world's first plutonium production facility
<b>MANHATTAN PROJECT 1943-1946</b>	
1943	Test reactor in Building 305
Mar 1943	Construction of Hanford Engineer Works (present Hanford Site) begins
Nov 4, 1943	Air cooled pilot-scale graphite reactor completed at Oak Ridge Reservation, Tennessee
Dec 1943	Fuel manufacturing begins in 313 Building
Mar 20, 1944	First experimental canning operations start in the 313 Building
Sep 26, 1944	Startup of B Reactor, world's first full-scale plutonium production reactor
Dec 17, 1944	Startup of D Reactor
Dec 26, 1944	Startup of T Plant (bismuth phosphate separation process)
1944-1945	Installation of 64 underground, single-shell waste tanks
1945	U Plant (221-U Building) and its bulk reduction facility (224-U Building) built but do not go on line; 221-U instead is used for training, decontamination, and repair



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Date	Event
1945	Original radiochemistry laboratory completed (3706 Building)
Jan 16, 1945	Plutonium finishing operations begin in 231-Z Building
Feb 25, 1945	Startup of F Reactor
Apr 13, 1945	Startup of B Plant (bismuth phosphate separation process)
Apr 1945	Construction of Hanford Engineer Works completed
May 7, 1945	Germany Surrenders
Jul 16, 1945	First atomic explosion, Trinity test at Alamogordo, New Mexico
Aug 6, 1945	First atomic bomb (Little Boy) made with uranium-235, produced from the gaseous diffusion plant at the Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee, dropped on Hiroshima, Japan
Aug 9, 1945	Atomic bomb (Fat Man) made with Hanford Site plutonium, dropped on Nagasaki, Japan
Aug 14, 1945	Japan Surrenders
Mar 5, 1946	Winston Churchill gives his Iron Curtain speech saying a Cold War is well under way
Aug 1, 1946	Atomic Energy Act passed

### U.S. Corps of Engineers Manhattan Engineer District

General Electric Company

Sep 1, 1946	General Electric Company becomes the prime site contractor of the newly named Hanford Works; the Atomic Energy Commission does not formally approve the contract until 1947 when the Atomic Energy Commission takes charge of the Hanford Site
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### COLD WAR ERA 1947-1990

1947-1949	Installation of 42 underground, single-shell waste tanks
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### Atomic Energy Commission

General Electric Company

Jan 1, 1947	The Atomic Energy Commission takes charge of the former Manhattan Project sites; the site is renamed the Hanford Works
Mar 12, 1947	Truman Doctrine
Jun 23, 1948	Berlin blocked and air lift results



Owner/Prime Contractor	
Date	Event
1949	Startup of C Plant (pilot for reduction and oxidation separation process - REDOX)
Jul 5, 1949	Startup of Rubber Glove (RG) Line in the newly completed Plutonium Finishing Plant (Z Plant)
Aug 29, 1949	Soviet Union detonates its first atomic bomb
Oct 29, 1949	Startup of H Reactor
1950-1952	Korean War Expansion
1950-1952	Installation of 18 underground, single-shell waste tanks
Oct 3, 1950	Startup of DR Reactor
1951	Startup of 242-T and 242-B Evaporators to process T and B Plant radioactive high-level waste stored in tank farms to reduce volume by boiling off the liquid
Mar 28, 1951	Camp Hanford established
1952	Startup of Physical Constants Test Reactor
1952	Startup of S Plant (reduction and oxidation separation process - REDOX)
1952	Startup of U Plant to recover uranium from T and B Plant radioactive high-level waste
1952	Startup of Experimental Animal Farm and Aquatic Biology Laboratory
Mar 18, 1952	Startup of Remote Mechanical A Line in the (Z Plant)
Oct 31, 1952	First hydrogen bomb tested at the Pacific Proving Grounds
Nov 18, 1952	Startup of C Reactor
1953-1955	Eisenhower Expansion
1953-1955	Installation of 21 underground, single-shell waste tanks
Jul 27, 1953	Korean War Armistice signed
1954	Startup of Thermal Test Reactor
Aug 30, 1954	Atomic Energy Act (allows for more private, commercial atomic applications)
Dec 1954	Startup of KW Reactor
Feb 1955	Startup of KE Reactor



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Date	Event
1955	Installation of Nike missile sites
1956-1964	Major Defense Production
1956	Moving all chemical processing work from the 231-Z Building to the Plutonium Finishing Plant
1956	Shutdown of B Plant
1956	Startup of Uranium Trioxide Plant, which was modified to convert uranium to uranium-trioxide
Jan 1956	Startup of A Plant (plutonium-uranium extraction process - PUREX)
Mar 20, 1956	Shutdown of T Plant
1957-1958	700 Area no longer a restricted area; fence removed and homes and commercial property sold to private owners
Oct 4, 1957	Soviet Union launches Sputnik
1958	Shutdown of U Plant
1960	Startup of the Plutonium Recycle Test Reactor (309 Building)
1961	Shutdown of Nike missile sites
1961	Shutdown of Camp Hanford
Oct 12-28, 1962	Cuban missile crisis
1963-1964	Electrical Generating Plant in 100-N Area
1963-1964	Installation of four underground, single-shell waste tanks
Aug 5, 1963	Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union sign the Limited Test Ban Treaty to outlaw nuclear tests in the atmosphere, under water, and in outer space
Dec 31, 1963	Initial critical startup (deadline date) of N Reactor
Mar 1964	Actual startup of operations of N Reactor, which is the first dual-purpose reactor operated in United States
May 1964	Startup of the Plutonium Reclamation Facility
Dec 31, 1964	Shutdown of DR Reactor
Jan 1, 1965	U.S. Testing Company (assumes responsibility for bioassays, film badges, environmental samples)



<b>Owner/Prime Contractor</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Jan 4, 1965	Battelle Memorial Institute assumes responsibility for management of the Hanford Site laboratories, renaming them the Pacific Northwest Laboratory
Mar 1, 1965	ITT Federal Support Services, Inc. assumes responsibility for support services
Apr 21, 1965	Shutdown of H Reactor
Jun 25, 1965	Shutdown of F Reactor
Aug 1, 1965	Hanford Environmental Health Foundation assumes responsibility for health services.
Nov 1, 1965	Douglas-United Nuclear, Inc. (joint venture between McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Company and United Nuclear Corporation) assumes responsibility for reactors and fuels
Jan 1, 1966	ISOCHEM, Inc. assumes responsibility for chemical processing and plutonium finishing
Jun 26, 1967	Shutdown of D Reactor
Jun 30, 1967	Construction completed on the High Temperature Lattice Test Reactor, 318 Building
<b>Atomic Energy Commission</b>	
Atlantic Richfield Hanford Company	
Sep 1, 1967	Atlantic Richfield Hanford Company becomes prime operator and assumes responsibility for chemical processing
Dec 1967	Shutdown of S Plant (REDOX)
1968-1988	Installation of 28 underground, double-shell waste tanks
Feb 12, 1968	Shutdown of B Reactor
Apr 25, 1969	Shutdown of C Reactor
Feb 1, 1970	Shutdown of KW Reactor
Jul 1, 1970	Westinghouse Hanford Company contracts to build and operate the Fast Flux Test Facility in the 400 Area and to operate the Hanford Engineering Development Laboratory
Jan 28, 1971	Shutdown of KE Reactor
1972-1982	Mostly fuel-grade plutonium produced
1972	Shutdown of the Uranium Trioxide Plant



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Date	Event
1973-1976	Startup of two new evaporator plants, 242-S and 242-A
Oct 11, 1974	President Ford signs the Energy Reorganization Act abolishing the Atomic Energy Commission and establishing the Energy Research and Development Administration
<b>Energy Research and Development Agency</b> Atlantic Richfield Hanford Company	
Jan 19, 1975	Energy Research and Development Administration activated; site renamed the Hanford Reservation
<b>U.S. Department of Energy</b> Rockwell Hanford Operations	
Jul 1, 1977	Rockwell Hanford Operations becomes prime operator and assumes responsibility for reprocessing operations
Oct 1, 1977	U.S. Department of Energy replaces the Energy Research and Development Administration; site renamed the Hanford Site
Feb 9, 1980	Startup of the Fast Flux Test Facility
1983-1987	Only weapon-grade plutonium produced
Nov 4, 1983	Restart of the Uranium Trioxide Plant
Jan 6, 1987	Shutdown of N Reactor
Mar 1, 1987	ICF Kaiser Hanford Company assumes responsibility for architecture and engineering
<b>U.S. Department of Energy</b> Westinghouse Hanford Company	
Jun 29, 1987	Westinghouse Hanford Company awarded the consolidated management and operations contract, which includes reactor operations, fuel manufacturing, chemical engineering, and waste management activities
1988	Shutdown of A Plant (PUREX)
May 1989	Shutdown of Plutonium Finishing Plant
Oct 1989	Cold War ends